GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) During the Indo-Pak meeting at Home Secretary level in May, 1988, both the countries agreed to take concrete measures to check drug trafficking, smuggling, illegal border crossings etc. along Indo-Pak border. These measures include regular joint action between the border security forces of both countries. They also agreed to regular exchange of information between the two countries, as well as to provide mutual assistance in criminal investigation in matters relating to drug trafficking and smuggling. No plan for joint action has been made so far. Meanwhile some interim measures such as holding of monthly meetings, flag meetings etc. have been agreed upon.

Setting up of a National Technology Mission to reclaim Wastelands

822. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Technology Mission for reclamation of wastelands;

(b) if so, how the mission will interact with the National Wastelands Development Board; and

(c) whether wetlands as distinct from wastelands would also be included in the Technology Mission and whether such wetlands in the country have been identified?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) The question whether a Technology Mission for the reclamation of the wastelands should be set up and if so, what should be its scope and coverage is under evtmination and a final decision thereon is yet to be taken.

Landless agricultural labourers covered by the Group Insurance Scheme

823. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of landless agricultural labourers in the country, State-wise and the number of those covered by the Group Insurance Scheme in each State as on 31st August, 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): The number of landless agricultural labourers in the country covered by the Group Insurance Scheme operating from 15th August, 1987 is roughly estimated to be 3 crores. It is not possible to give correctly state-wise estimated figures.

Memorandum submitted to P.M. by Indian National Bank Officers' Congress

824. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that detailed memorandum has been submitted to the Prime Minister by the Indian National Bank Officers' Congress enlisting their grievances about the victimisation meted out to the office bearers of INTUC led Unions/Associations by the Managements of State Bank of India and nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to stop such harassment and victimisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) INTUC affiliated unions/associations of Bank Employees have represented to Government about their various points of grievances and demands. Specific instances of victimisation, whenever brought to Government's notice, are duly examined by Government and corrective measures are taken/initiated wherever called for.

Finance Minister's visit to London

825. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian High Commission in the United Kingdom had requested for a meeting between the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Nigel Lawson and the Union Finance Minister Shri S. B. Chavan during the latter's recent visit to London;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the proposed meeting did not materialise; and

(d) if so, what were the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The Finance Minister visited London in September, 1988, at the conclusion of the Annual Meetings of the Commonwealth Finance Ministers in Nicosia and of the World Bank and IMF at West Berlin. The objective of the Finance Minister's visit to London was to meet non-resident Indians and Indian bankers in the United Kingdom. These meetings were held.

In view of the Finance Minister's presence in London, the High Commission also sought to ascertain the availability of the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, with a view to arranging a meeting, if mutually convenient. Since the Chancellor of the Exchequer was not free on this date, a meeting could not take place.

826. *[Transferred to the 30th November, 1988.]*

Recruitments made for BSF and CRPF in Rajasthan

827. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of recruitments made for Border Security Force and Central Reserve Police Force in Rajasthan during 1987 and 1988 and the places where such recruitments were made;

(b) the total number of constables recruited; and

(c) by when all these persons will be sent for training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) CRPF have made recruitment at 8 places during 1987 and 15 places so far during 1988 in Rajasthan. BSF have made recruitment at 29 places during 1987 and 21 places during 1988 (upto 30th September, 1988) in Rajasthan. The places where these Forces made recruitment are given to the statement (*See* below).

(b) The number of constables recruited is given below:—

	1987	1988
CRPF	287	920
BSF	2015	1103